

REMARKS

Amendments

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the recitation of claim 2, now cancelled. Submission of the amendment to claim 1 is not to be construed as acquiescence to any ground of rejection. Claims 4, 7-10, and 13 are amended to use language in accordance with conventional US practice, and to provide express antecedent basis for terminology.

New claims 14-20 are directed to further aspects of the invention and are supported throughout the disclosure. See, e.g., page 7, lines 22-29; page 8, line 29-page 9, line 1; page 9, lines 21-24; page 12, lines 26-page 13, line 4; page 13, lines 21-23; page 14, lines 22-24; and page 17, lines 16-21.

Claim Objection

The objections to the language of claim 2 are rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 2. Amended claim 1, which now incorporates the feature previously recited in claim 2, does not contain the objected to language. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §102(e) in view of Barcock et al.

Claims 1, 5, 8, and 11-13 are rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Barcock et al. (US 6,502,935). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the recitation of claim 2, which the examiner acknowledged recited allowable subject matter. Claims 5, 8, and 11-13 depend from amended claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 11-13 are rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of Barcock et al. (US 6,502,935) and Ogawa et al. (US 5,750,200). Additionally, claims 1, 4, and 9-13 are rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of Mukoyoshi et al. (US 6,242,082) and Yasuda et al. (US 5,213,873). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the recitation of claim 2, which the examiner acknowledged recited allowable subject matter. Claims 4 and 9-13 depend from amended claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

/Brion P. Heaney/
Brion P. Heaney, Reg. No. 32,542
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO
& BRANIGAN, P.C.
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1, Suite 1400
2200 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Telephone: (703) 243-6333
Facsimile: (703) 243-6410

Attorney Docket No.: TAKIT-189

Date: **May 24, 2007**